

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 04343 151440Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAB-01 DRC-01 /097 W  
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R 151300Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3885  
INFO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

UNCLAS BRASILIA 4343

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, US, PN

SUBJECT: PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEW

1. IN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED JORNAL DO BRASIL JUNE 11, PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER TACK DECLARED THAT THE EIGHT-POINT AGREEMENT (FEBRUARY 1974) CONSTITUTED "AN IMPORTANT POINT IN THE PROCESS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS" ASKED ABOUT OPPOSITION IN THE US CONGRESS TO REVERSION OF SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CANAL, TACK CALLED "UNDER-  
STANDABLE AND EVEN TO BE EXPECTED CERTAIN REACTIONS PRESENTED BY THE SENATE AND CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES." NOTING THAT DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WITHIN THE USG ARE "NATURAL", TASK SAID "THE INTERNAL MECHANISMS OF THE USG ALSO KNOW HOW TO CONCILIATE AND RESOLVE SUCH DIFFERENCES," AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE JUSTICE OF THE PANAMANIAN CAUSE WOULD FIND UNDERSTANDING IN ALL SECTORS OF POWER IN THE US.

QUERIED ON THE POINT, TASK DECLARED "DEFINITIVELY, WITHOUT ANY DOUBT", THAT PANAMA COULD RUN THE CANAL EFFICIENTLY AND ASSURE, "IN CONDITIONS OF ABSOLUTE EQUALITY, UNINTERRUPTED SERVICE".

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 04343 151440Z

3. ASKED ABOUT TIMING OF REVERSION, TACK SAID THAT

BY THE EIGHT-POINT AGREEMENT, THE US "COMMITTS ITSELF TO RESTORE PROMPTLY THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTIONAL FUNCTIONS WHICH IT HAS RETAINED SINCE 1904. THIS RESTITUTION WILL BE CARRIED OUT PROGRESSIVELY WITHIN A PERIOD WHICH, ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED AGREEMENT, WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED PROMPTLY.

4. ASSERTING THAT THE EXISTENCE OF THE CANAL ZONE HAD BROUGHT "NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES, NOT ONLY ECONOMIC IN NATURE, BUT ALSO CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND POLITICAL", HE SAID THAT THE "FUNDAMENTAL DIVERGENCE" BETWEEN PANAMA AND THE US "CONSISTS OF DEFINING THE STAGES WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE COMPLETED IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT COMPLETE EFFECTIVENESS OF PANAMANIAN JURISDICTION IN THE TERRITORY CALLED THE CANAL ZONE, AND ALSO THE SPEED OF THE MEASURES TO BE ADOPTED IN EACH OF THESE STAGES".

5. ASKED WHEN THE NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE COMPLETED, TACK SAID "PANAMA IS NOT WORRIED ABOUT THE TIME EMPLOYED IN THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, BUT RATHER IN CONCRETE RESULTS. WE WILL NEGOTIATE FOR THE TIME NECESSARY TO ASSURE THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVE OF THE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL REINTEGRATION OF THE SO-CALLED CANAL ZONE WITH THE REST OF THE REPUBLIC." THE INTERVIEW ENDED WITH TACK'S ASSERTION (CONTRARY TO THE IMPLICATION OF THE QUESTION) THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PANAMANIAN JURISDICTION WOULD BE ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO PANAMA.  
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